

Economic Development & Improvement Commission
Regular Meeting – Thursday July 9, 2009 – 12:00 Noon
Town Manager's Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall

MINUTES

1. Call To Order – Chairman Greenblatt called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required)

Members in attendance: Chair Howard Greenblatt, Jonah Evenson, Dorcas McHugh, Ken Rizzio, Chris Lyons, Bill Knapp, Rick Willard, Joan Hughes, Doug Sacks, John Adamian, Betty Rosania and Betty Standish.

Members absent: Brian Silver, Rene Ortega and Jay Amoruso.

Also in attendance: Bonnie Therrien – Town Manager; Phil Knecht – Planning and Zoning Commission Liaison; Peter Gillespie – Economic Development Manager/Town Planner and Denise Bradley – Assistant Planner.

3. Old Business

a. Farmer's Market – Doug Sacks noted that there has been an outstanding response despite the poor weather conditions. He distributed the list of vendors through the end of the season and a financial spreadsheet. Peter Gillespie reported that the signs for the event would be going before the Zoning Board of Appeals on July 27th.

b. Business Visitation Program – Peter Gillespie distributed new visitation packets as follows:

J. Michael's Tavern – Doug Sacks
Roche Services – Jonah Evenson
Fabulous Jewelry – Jonah Evenson
Pelton's – Howard Greenblatt
Top Trimmers – Betty Rosania
Little Caesars – Jonah Evenson
WPI Realty – Ken Rizzio
Ooh La La – Chris Lyons
Catcher's Pub – Chris Lyons
J+L Medical – Rick Willard

c. Shop Local – Peter Gillespie noted that he is looking for EDIC participation in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and added that he'd like to hire someone and have the final detail in the fall.

d. Wayfinding Signage Status Report – Peter Gillespie reported that the town received 13 proposals for design and bid specs. 4 firms were interviewed and 1 has been selected to be

recommended to the Town Council at their 7/20 meeting. Mr. Gillespie noted that there is no EDIC representative on this Committee and that he welcomes some involvement. Rick Willard volunteered to help out.

4. New Business

- a. Façade Improvement Applications – Peter Gillespie reported that the Subway located at 526 Silas Deane Highway has expressed interest in pursuing a façade loan to upgrade using a new franchise prototype. He also noted that 3 of the 4 closing that need to take place will occur in the next few weeks.
- b. Town Calendar and Business Directory – Nothing additional to report.
- c. Façade Improvement Loan – Pelton's Home Health Care Status – Denise Bradley reported that a revised proposal has been submitted and that it will be reviewed by the Design Review Advisory Committee at their 7/15 meeting. The EDIC then reviewed the revised proposal. Betty Rosania made a motion to endorse the modified façade improvements. Ken Rizzio seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
- d. Election of Officers – Rick Willard made a motion for Howard Greenblatt and Chris Lyons to continue to serve a Chairman and Vice Chairman. Bill Knapp seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
- e. Breakfast Meeting/Forum – A discussion ensued regarding gearing the next breakfast meeting towards providing updated information to local realtor's.

5. Reports - Town Manager's Report – Bonnie Therrien reported on the following:

- Tornado
- Wilkus Open Space
- This Old House Article
- Silas Deane Highway Paving Schedule
- The new Town Manager will start August 3rd

Town Council Liaison's Report – No report was given.

Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – No report was given.

Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – Dorcas McHugh reported that Chris Trazyk was elected the new Chairman.

Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report – No report was given.

Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report – Rick Willard reported on a seminar he attended entitled, *Good Ideas in a Tough Economy*.

Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie reported on the following:

- Humphrey's Opening
- Mangia Pizza is under new ownership & will be called Johnny Tomatoes
- Athens Pizza is under new ownership & will be called Empire Pizza
- Soma Wines opening up in Goff Brook Shops
- Crossroads Magazine features a series spotlighting daytrips in CT

6. Chairman's Report – Howard Greenblatt noted his appreciation for the town's quick response to the tornado. He discussed the opportunity to turn the disaster into a positive effort to increase pedestrian traffic in the Broad Street Green area.

7. Sub-Committee Reports - Marketing and Communications – Nothing additional to report.

Financial Strategies – Ken Rizzio noted that the façade loan program is running out of funding and futures sources are unknown.

8. Minutes- June 11, 2009 Meeting – Betty Rosania made a motion to approve the minutes. Joan Hughes seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

9. Next Meeting – August 13, 2009

10. Correspondence

11. Adjournment – Doug Sacks made a motion to adjourn at 1:25 p.m. Joan Hughes seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

cc: Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk